REMARKS

The Applicants acknowledge the Office's Final Rejection with appreciation. Claims 27, 36 and 37 are pending. Claim 27 is allowed. Claim 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to claim with particularity. With this Response After Final, the Applicants amend Claim 36, to remove the language "alone or", as kindly suggested by the Office, thereby providing the requested definition.

With respect to Claim 37, the Office considers "pathologies caused by attack on cartilage" as being indefinite and unclear as to which pathologies might be served with the method of treatment using the instant invention. In an effort to place this claim in condition for immediate allowance, the Applicants presently amend Claim 37 to further define the claim to a method of treating a living body afflicted with the exemplary pathologies caused by attack on cartilage, which are disclosed in the Specification on page 1, lines 11 and 18. Applicants submit the present language is sufficiently clear as to apprise those in the art regarding the scope of the claim and thereby providing the requested definition.

* * * * *

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

G PATRICK SAGE

Dated: January 7, 2004 Customer No.: 25,666 500 Columbia Plaza 350 East Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3856 (269) 382-0030

Enclosure: Listing of Claims and Postal Card Receipt

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.